

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 EURE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 231810Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAININGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PINT, IT

SUBJ: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MORO TO REPLY TO SOCIALISTS

TONIGHT

REF: ROME 1032

SUMMARY PREMIER MORO IS SCHEDULED TO REPLY TO SOCIALIST PROPOSAL OF DC-PSI GOVERNMENT IN MEETING THIS EVENING WITH PSI SECRETARY DEMARTINO. MORO GENERALLY EXPECTED TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE DC ATTACHES TO DC-PSI LINKS, BUT TO OFFER COMPLICATED GAMUT OF COUNTER-PROPOSALS TO PSI FOR CONSIDERATION. SOCIALIST DIRECTORATE MEETING SATURDAY TO CONSIDER DC REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING INTENSIVE ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH DC LEADERS, MORO IS SCHEDULED THIS EVENING TO GIVE SOCIALIST DC PROPOSALS FOR RESOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS. MORO WILL BE RESPONDING TO PSI PROPOSAL THAT DC AGREE IN ADVANCE
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TO DC-PSI GOVERNMENT FORMULA, BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEGOTIATIONS

ON ECONOMIC PROGRAM. LATEST SOCIALIST PROPOSAL (ACCORDING TO DC SOURCES) DOES NOT RPT NOT DEMAND THAT DC ACCEPT COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION IN GOVERNING MAJORITY.

2. DC SOURCE WHO ATTENDED LENGTHY MEETING OF MORO WITH DC PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP THIS AFTERNOON TELLS US THAT MORO WILL NOT ACCEPT PSI DEMAND THAT DC-PSI GOVERNMENT FORMULA BE ACCEPTED A SINE QUA NON FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER DC SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED TO US THAT MAJORITY WITHIN DC UNWILLING UNCEREMONIOUSLY TO DUMP REPUBLICAN PARTY ALLIES IN THIS MANNER.

3. INSTEAD, MORO IS EXPECTED TO ASSURE SOCIALISTS THAT DC ACCEPTS NEED FOR PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PSI, BUT WISHES TO NEGOTIATE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ECONOMIC PROGRAM BEFORE AGREEING TO DC-PSI GOVERNMENT FORMULA. SUCH A PROGRAM COULD NOT SIMPLY REJECT MORO-LA MALFA MEDIUM TERM ECONOMIC PLAN, AND MORO IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE IDEA OF DC-PSI-REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT AS ONE WHICH COULD RESULT FROM AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

4. IN THE EVENT SOCIALISTS REJECT IDEA OF REPUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, MORO IS EXPECTED TO SUGGEST THAT HIS DC-PRI GOVERNMENT SEEK PARLIAMENTARY CONFIDENCE VOTE. PSI WOULD BE INVITED TO ABSTAIN (THUS GIVING NECESSARY MAJORITY) ON BASIS OF AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC, URGENT ECONOMIC MEASURES TO BE TAKEN. AGREEMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE PENDING ABORTION LEGISLATION MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED IN DEAL.

5. ONE DC SOURCE INDICATED THAT MORO WOULD EVEN BE WILLING TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF DC ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT TO ENACT SPECIFIC ECONOMIC MEASURES. MORO'S PURPOSE WILL BE TO MAKE CLEAR THE DDC DESIRE TO AVOID EARLY ELECTIONS AND, SHOULD THE PSI REJECT ALL ALTERNATIVES OFFERED, PROVIDE STRONG POSITION FROM WHICH DC COULD FIGHT EARLY ELECTION BATTLE. PURPOSE OF INTERIM SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED ABOVE WOULD BE TO ALLOW DC AND PSO CONGRESSES TO BE HELD MORE OR LESS ON SCHEDULE AND PREVENT SHARP DC-PSI BREAK WHICH RECOURSE TO EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD IMPLY. IN
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ADDITON, DC LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED GROWING CONCERN AT LEAVING COUNTRY WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT AT TIME OF SHARPENING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES COMBINED WITH DRAMATIC LIRA "CRISI."

6. SOCIALIST DIRECTORATE MEETING SATURDAY TO CONSIDER RESULTS OF MORO-DEMARTINO TALK THIS EVENING. WHILE RAPID EVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED, A NUMBER OF SOURCES PREDICT THAT NEGOTIATIONS MAY DRAG ON

AS EACH SIDE TRIES TO KEEP BALL IN OTHER'S COURT.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, COALITION GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME01223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-0958
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760127/aaaaaxrc.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 1032
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MORO TO REPLY TO SOCIALISTS TONIGHT
TAGS: PINT, IT, PSI, DC, (MORO, ALDO), (DE MARTINO, FRANCISCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006